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Logic.
01

Screech
WHAT?
THIS STAKEOUT... IS FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!?
YEP
LAST NIGHT WHEN I PASSED BY, THE LIGHTS OF AN ALL-NIGHT STORE WERE ON
AND THAT TIME I SAW A CAR LIKE THE ONE BEFORE
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS ASAOKA YUMI'S OR NOT, BUT THERE'S SOME VALUE TO CHECKING THIS OUT, RIGHT?
This bastard... his info changed again!
While I was complaining!
YOU CAN GO HOME IF YOU WANT

Well, I do wanna go home, but...
NO I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE
This guy... 24 hours...
...I WANT TO GET A SCOOP, SO I'M GOING OVERBOARD HERE
IF YOU GO HOME I WON'T TELL
That's no reason to go home! I'm on the clock!
WHAT? WHY?
AYT
I mean, come on...
You'd never let me see anything else!

HUH?
I'M NOT SLEEPING! I'M NOT SLEEPY!
LOOK
IF YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP GO TO THE BACK AND SLEEP
There's a blanket for napping in there.
gasp
FINE I GET IT
THEN WE CAN SWITCH LATER
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP SLEEP
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO PRETEND YOU'RE AWAKE AND THEN FALL ASLEEP
rustle
いちご
WAKE ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING OKAY?
Don't just say I'm a nuisance.
WAKE UP YOURSELF!
AND HAND ME THAT BAG

What are those!?
Have you been carrying those around?
HUH? YEAH
And they're strawberry flavored
LOTS OF PLACES HAVE BANNED SMOKING LATELY
SO THEY'RE SUBSTITUTES AND EMERGENCY RATIONS
AND
PROPS
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE A PERSONAL CONNECTION, THERE'S NO HARM IN CREATING A LITTLE GOOD WILL, RIGHT?
Start on it too
HUH? Props?
GIRLS GO FOR THAT KIND OF THING
More than lozenges anyway
YOU BASTARD
Anywhere you go
You also do that at work?

"Everyone does their best even though they're not where they want to be."
HEY WHY...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
NOTHING SPECIAL.
IT WAS JUST BY CHANCE.
THAT'S NOT IT THOUGH. IS IT?
THEY USUALLY ASK ABOUT YOUR MOTIVES WHEN YOU ENTER A COMPANY, RIGHT?
...WHAT?
I was a little wondering...
Ah... Ok, thanks.
...HUH?
What? Why this, all of a sudden?

YOU'LL LAUGH I DON'T WANNA SAY
THAT SO? THEN I WON'T SAY EITHER
Hey!
FINE. WHAT'S YOUR REASON?
I...
OH, ME?
...
AH! What's with that look on your face?

Mmph!
TO TRY AND EXPOSE ALL THIS WORLD'S EVILS WITH ONE PEN
I WANTED
I
That was a giggle right?
BASTARD
DID YOU JUST LAUGH?
WHA...? NO WAY
AND?
WHAT'S YOUR REASON?
EHH, PROFARLY FOR MONEY
For that reason? That's all?
WELL YOU GET A BONUS FOR EACH SCOOP
The rate's nice
I
I
thump

BUT YEAH...
IN THE BEGINNING, THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN IT...
OKAY, SO HOW DOES I WANTED TO TRY AND EXPOSE ALL THIS WORLD'S EVILS WITH A SINGLE PICTURE SOUND?
Enough!
Sweats
S JUST A JOKE
rustle
UM—
UM, NOTHING!
GO TO SLEEP ALREADY!
DACH

AREN'T THESE THE ISSUES WHERE I D DONE THE HEADLINES AND SPECIAL REPORTS?
OH
Emergency Report
FIRE CATASTROPHE
Did he look for them?
could be
Is there's something more to him than I thought?

click
click
click
DID YOU GET EM?
I DID
IS THAT SO
YEP
BUT

I thought he sort of looked like the dude from before but
These are totally bogus!
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR
Isn't he just asking for an autograph?
And there's like three of them.
IT'S NOT THAT, IS IT..
HUH?
Ehhh!
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN ALL OVER THEM LIKE WHITE ON RICE!?
WELL...
SOME-TIMES THIS HAPPENS TOO...
OH
beep beep beep
WHAT IS IT?
NO-THING I...
OH? I... I KNOW THIS GUY
WHO?

WHO IS HE
OH
?
WHAT IS IT? WHO—
S-
START THE CAR.
WHA?
OH!
WHERE DID
OH
Stop talking! Hurry! We have to get back!
WHAT!?
I need to check something!
HURRY!
SHINKAN
Reference Room

THIS IS
LAST YEAR, WHEN THERE WAS A BIG UPROAR OVER THE ISSUE ABOUT POLITICAL BRIBERY,
Oh, he's in this one too.
THEY WERE INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTIONS, SO ALL THEIR ILLEGAL BUSINESSES CAME TO LIGHT ONE AFTER THE OTHER, AND THEIR BOSS WAS ARRESTED.
YOU AREN'T THESE YAKUZA?
YES.
TOP BRASS OF THE OOTSUKA FAMILY, MANO KOUSEI.
WHY D'YOU KNOW THIS?
I GET IT.
BUT YOU SURE HAVE A GOOD MEMORY
HE'S ONLY IN THE CORNER OF THIS PICTURE!

I won't lose when it comes to marry!
I MAKE UP FOR IN BRAINS!
WHATEVER I LACK IN REFLEXES,
My bad my bad!
MY BAD WERE YOU STILL HURTIN' OVER THAT?
OH
You're really pissing me off.
THE OOTSUKA FAMILY HAS CONNECTIONS IN SUMO WRESTLING AND OF COURSE SHOW BUSINESS
THAT IS TO SAY
YOU'RE AMAZING

SO THAT'S THE REASON WHY, WHENEVER ASAOKA NABS ALL SORTS OF AWARDS...
RUMORS ABOUT RIGGING WON'T DIE OFF!
SO NEXT,
WE HAVE TO CAPTURE ASAOKA AND MANO FRONT AND CENTER!
AND I'M JUST THE GUY TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN
Hey!

SO IF I SEE ANY MOVEMENT FROM THE OOTSUKA FAMILY, I'LL CALL YOU
YOU GO STAKE OUT THE STORE WITH THE BIGGEST PROBABILITY OF THEIR APPEARANCE AND GET A PICTURE.
BUT THEY'RE YAKUZ... RIGHT? WILL YOU BE OKAY?
IF THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH RIGGING AWARDS, THOSE TWO WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER.
For real?
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE NEXT FILM FESTIVAL. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'LL SEE ASAOKA HERE.
GET OUT OF HERE AND GO TO THE STORE! AND IF WE MEET WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER. GOT IT!?
Shut the fuck up.
I GOT IT
BUT DURING CRUNCH TIME YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY
Not with those legs.
IT'LL BE FINE I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING ALL THAT DANGEROUS
I'VE INVESTIGATED AROUND THIS AREA BEFORE SO I KNOW ABOUT GOOD PLACES TO HIDE
Uh... doubtedly...
You would...
If I could excel here...
It's just...

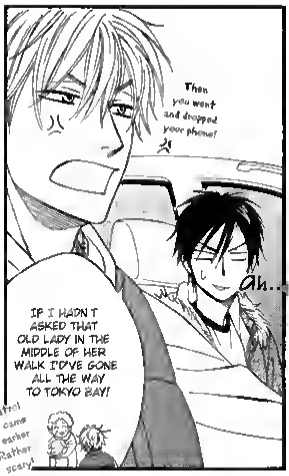
!
...you're amazing
...!
vrooom
Are they going to that store...?
HEY, YOU

IF YOU LET ME GO HOME JUST ONCE, I'LL BRING MY BUSINESS CARDS OR WHATEVER HERE!
B-BUT IT'S TRUE!
(No, you don't well know!)
TRYING TO TRICK THEIR WAY OUT AND WE WELL KNOW
BUT IF YOU JUST ESCAPE THEN IT'S OUR PROBLEM ISN'T IT?
How has it come to this?
Why...
OKAY SO
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE! THEY SAY THIS AND THAT EXCUSE
YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU RE A REPORTER, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE BUSINESS CARD ON YOU
I'm saying, today is a little...
OH REALLY? THEN IT'S FINE IF YOU GO HOME
THERE S BEEN CONTACT FROM SHINKAN CO
ONCE KITOSHI REALLY DOES WORK FOR THEM
!!
The Hell is that!
TANAKA
THERE S BEEN AN INCIDENT WITH A SLASHER BEFORE IN THAT AREA, YOU SEE?
BUT
...I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DANGEROUS, DO I?
Didn't you check earlier?

What about me exactly looks suspicious? Huh?
Shit! Time wasters!
TIME SIT?
Was he able to get a picture?
I wonder how Kaburagi's doing?
COULD YOU PERHAPS BE LOOKING FOR THIS?
HUM? WHERE'S MY PHONE?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE...?
Y..
YOU!!
step
step

grab
That's supposed to be MY line.
WHAT. THE FUCK.
Did you do.
I-THE POLICE WERE NOTIFIED AND THEY DETAINED ME—
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
THEN WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME!?
HUH?
YOU SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT ME TO TELL ME YOU WERE DETAINED
release

I MEAN, LOOK!
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE MY PHONE ON ME!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO CONTACT SOMEONE
YEAH... BUT
click
DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO?
THERE WEREN'T EXACTLY A LOT OF OPTIONS.
SIGH
YOU'RE STAKING OUT YAKUZA!


Then you went and dropped your phone!
Ah..
IF I HADN'T ASKED THAT OLD LADY IN THE MIDDLE OF HER WALK I'D'VE GONE ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO BAY!
A patrol car came by earlier. Rather scary.

I DIDN'T KNOW! I DIDN'T KNOW SO I LOOKED FOR YOU!
I JUST GOT THAT ONE INCOMING call!
Nivate
And you were worried?
DID YOU PERHAPS THINK THAT I'D BEEN CAUGHT BY THEM?
...OH

YOU'RE NOT FORGIVEN

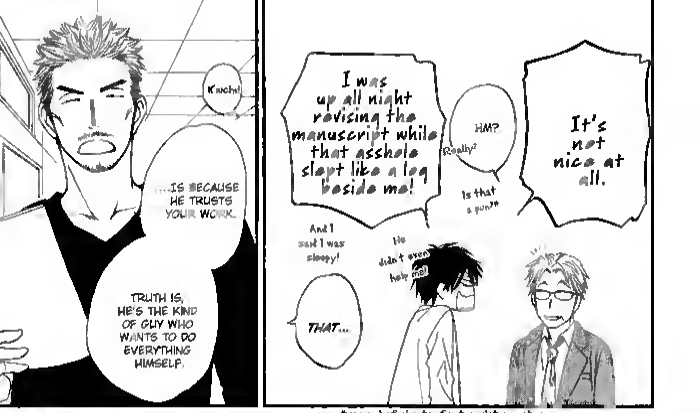
I'M SORRY

I'LL HIT YOU, YOU BASTARD.
...You didn't get a picture!?
KWHAT!?
What the hell are we sitting here for!? They're meeting right now!

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
AND IF WE MISS OUT ON THIS SCOOP BECAUSE OF THIS?
UGH
Vroom

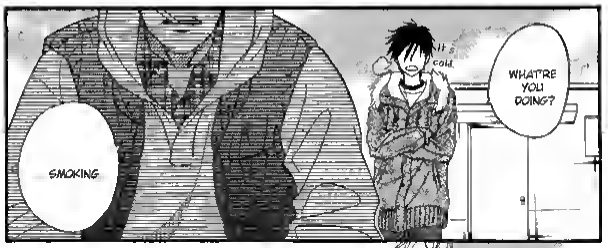
passing up on this scoop?--
I see.
Would you have continued to search for me--
JUST NOW--!

Who was cold-blooded, again?
ONOE!
I AM HAPPY BUT I WAS WRITING THE ARTICLE UNTIL A WHILE AGO AND I'M SLEEPY
Aren't you happy?
YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT EXCITED FOR PULLING IN SUCH A BIG SCOOP!
YOU'LL BE THE HEADLINER NEXT WEEK
AHH
THAT YOU GOT SOMETHING GOOD
I HEARD...
Good morning!
G'morning, editor in-chief
THE BIRTH OF A NICE COMBO!
I KNEW IT WAS RIGHT TO PUT YOU TWO TOGETHER
AHH THE PICTURES ARE FROM KABU AND THE ARTICLE'S FROM YOU
KUCHI SAID IT WAS GOOD YOU TWO MADE IT


Kuchi!
...IS BECAUSE HE TRUSTS YOUR WORK.
TRUTH IS, HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO WANTS TO DO EVERYTHING HIMSELF.
I was up all night revising the manuscript while that asshole slept like a log beside me!
And I said I was sleepy!
He didn't even help me!
THAT...
HM? (really?)
Is that a pun?*
It's not nice at all.

*see end of chapter for translation notes

If his work is over he heads up there.
ISN'T HE ON THE ROOFTOP?
FOR GUYS WHO CAN'T HAVE JUST THE ONE SMOKE, IT'S A MEDI-TATION PLACE...
...IS WHAT I THINK.
HUH?
Even though it's this cold?


It's cold.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
SMOKING

Is that so...
HM?
ONCE THAT ARTICLE GOES PUBLIC,
ASAOKA WILL HAVE TO RETIRE FROM FILMS
THAT ALL RIGHT?

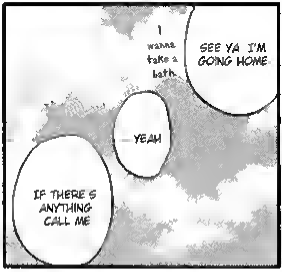
...You're right
You only realized now?
IF I CONSIDER IT SHE'S PRETTY POPULAR...
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE FANS?
WHO KNOWS
B...
BUT AS FAR AS IT GOES THEY'RE THE ONES WHO DID SOMETHING WRONG!
But more than that what if she herself comes to the office?
THAT'S RIGHT
IF YOU DON'T THINK THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS JOB
"Don't you think about that?"
AH...
I'M SO—
THAT'S WHY

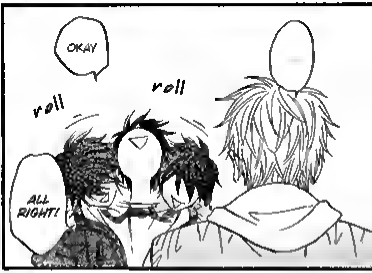
BEFORE YOU BECOME JADED LIKE ME...
SOMEONE LIKE YOU? SHOULD CHANGE DEPARTMENTS AND FAST
In the beginning I was also —
What're you doing here?"
"It's a meditation place, is what I think

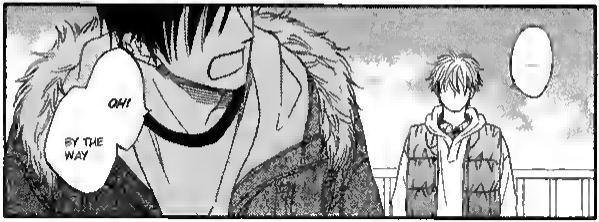
But
you're not
actually jaded,
aren't you?

you're different from what you think.
The truth is...

Hm?


I wanna take a bath.
SEE YA I'M GOING HOME
YEAH
IF THERE'S ANYTHING CALL ME


OKAY
roll
roll
ALL RIGHT!


OH!
BY THE WAY

I'M NOT GOING TO STOP BECAUSE OF THIS
I'LL SHOW YOU!!
...What the hell was that?
It's just, he had that unbearable look on his face, so I unthinkingly
..."Unthinkingly", what the fuck!
WHY?
WHAT DID I DO? WHAT THE HELL DID I DO? WHAT DID I HUG HIM FOR!?

What do I do?
Why are my feelings right now.
But more than that, why..
Calm down.
Calm down !
Rustle
What do I do?
Jump
I want to know more about him
tbc

Translation notes for page 55

"Is that a pun?"

It's sort of a Japanese pun.
The Japanese goes: 'naisu ja naissu yo';
the first 'naisu' is "nice"; the second, "naissu"
is a negation, "nai", with "ssu", which is a rougher,
slangier, slurrier way of saying 'desu': so it's
'naisu ja nai desu yo'

"Awakened by the truth"

The text above Onoe's head is part of a proverb,
"Me kara uroko ga ochiru," which means, literally,
'to have the scales fall from one's eyes', and
figuratively to mean that you're awakened to
some truth, or you see the light. Which is why the
drawing has those two little circles falling from
Onoe's face.

DEAR COMIC 265

1

夏目イサク

Isaku NATSUME

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SHINSHOKAN

A change in the stakeout team throws Onoe, reporter for a weekly magazine, together with his contemporary, Kaburagi, a photographer. Onoe secretly considers Kaburagi his rival, and Kaburagi's haphazard way of doing things goes against Onoe's strong sense of ethics- there's nothing but conflict between them. But, in joint pursuit of a scandal, the two of them begin to care about each other...? Introducing the main fighting couple!

nakama presents

Amber Paradox

by Natsume Isaku

Credits

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translator: firecrest
proofer: aripie
editor: aripie
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